



IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for managing a switched network infrastructure comprising:
storing an expected network infrastructure description of a network having a switched infrastructure without requiring hubs, said network having a data center;
comparing said expected network infrastructure description with a current network infrastructure description, wherein said comparing detects any new devices in the network infrastructure, any changed configuration of devices in the network including hardware, software or firmware configuration changes, and any devices or device interfaces that have been removed or have failed in the network; and
outputting a result of said comparing to an operation terminal at said data center, wherein only differences between said expected network infrastructure description and said current network infrastructure description are displayed; and
providing said result in a user accessible format on said operation terminal at said data center operation for utilization by a data center operator.
2. (Original) The method for managing a network infrastructure as recited in Claim 1, wherein said network infrastructure is a switched network.
3. (Previously Amended) The method for managing a network infrastructure as recited in Claim 1, wherein said method further comprises implementing a change of said network infrastructure with a configuration agent and storing said change in said expected network infrastructure description.
4. (Original) The method for managing a network infrastructure as recited in Claim 1, wherein said comparing further comprises collecting said current network infrastructure description.
5. (Original) The method for managing a network infrastructure as recited in Claim 4, wherein said collecting of said current network infrastructure description further comprises using agents to collect said current network infrastructure description.

6. (Original) The method for managing a network infrastructure as recited in Claim 1, wherein said comparing further comprises converting said expected network infrastructure description into an expected network infrastructure graphical description and converting said current network infrastructure description into a current network infrastructure graphical description.

7. (Original) The method for managing a network infrastructure as recited in Claim 6, wherein said comparing further comprises comparing said expected network infrastructure graphical description with said current network infrastructure graphical description.

8. (Original) The method for managing a network infrastructure as recited in Claim 1, wherein said outputting further comprises:

 outputting a list of devices from said expected network infrastructure description which are missing from said current network infrastructure description;

 outputting a list of devices from said current network infrastructure description having a different configuration from the configuration of said devices in said expected network infrastructure description; and

 outputting a list of devices from said current network infrastructure description which are not described in said expected network infrastructure description.

9. (Original) The method for managing a network infrastructure as recited in Claim 1, wherein said outputting further comprises:

 outputting a message stating that said expected network infrastructure description and said current network infrastructure description are identical.

10. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

 a bus;

 a memory unit coupled to said bus; and

 a processor coupled to said bus, said processor for executing a method for managing a switched network infrastructure comprising:

storing an expected network infrastructure description as an XML data type description of a network having a switched infrastructure without requiring hubs, said network having a data center;

comparing said expected network infrastructure XML data type description with a current network infrastructure XML data type description, wherein said comparing detects any new devices in the network infrastructure, any changed configuration of devices in the network including hardware, software or firmware configuration changes, and any devices or device interfaces that have been removed or have failed in the network; and

outputting a result of said comparing to an operation terminal at said data center, wherein only differences between said expected network infrastructure description and said current network infrastructure description are displayed; and

providing said result in a user accessible format on said operation terminal at said data center operation for utilization by a data center operator.

11. (Original) The computer system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said network infrastructure is a switched network infrastructure.
12. (Previously Amended) The computer system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said method further comprises implementing a change of said network infrastructure with a configuration agent and storing said change in said expected network infrastructure description.
13. (Original) The computer system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said comparing further comprises collecting said current network infrastructure description.
14. (Original) The computer system as recited in Claim 13, wherein said collecting of said current network infrastructure description further comprises using agents to collect said current network infrastructure description.
15. (Original) The computer system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said comparing further comprises converting said expected network infrastructure description into an expected network

infrastructure graphical description and converting said current network infrastructure description into a current network infrastructure graphical description.

16. (Original) The computer system as recited in Claim 15, wherein said comparing further comprises comparing said expected network infrastructure graphical description with said current network infrastructure graphical description.

17. (Original) The computer system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said outputting further comprises:

outputting a list of devices from said expected network infrastructure description which are missing from said current network infrastructure description;

outputting a list of devices from said current network infrastructure description having a different configuration from the configuration of said devices in said expected network infrastructure description; and

outputting a list of devices from said current network infrastructure description which are not described in said expected network infrastructure description.

18. (Original) The computer system as recited in Claim 10, wherein said outputting further comprises:

outputting a message stating that said expected network infrastructure description and said current network infrastructure description are identical.

19. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method for managing a switched network infrastructure comprising:

storing an expected network infrastructure description as an XML data type description of a network having a switched infrastructure without requiring hubs, said network having a data center, said description comprising a device name and at least one configuration attribute for each device of said expected switched network infrastructure;

comparing said expected network infrastructure XML data type description with a current network infrastructure XML data type description comprising a device name and at least one configuration attribute for each device of said current network infrastructure, wherein said comparing detects any new devices in the network infrastructure, any changed configuration of devices in the network including hardware, software or firmware configuration changes, and any devices or device interfaces that have been removed or have failed in the network; and

outputting a result of said comparing to an operation terminal at said data center, wherein only differences between said expected network infrastructure description and said current network infrastructure description are displayed; and

providing said result in a user accessible format on said operation terminal at said data center operation for utilization by a data center operator.

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 19, wherein said network infrastructure is a switched network infrastructure.

21. (Previously Amended) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 19, wherein said method further comprises implementing a change of said network infrastructure with a configuration agent and storing said change in said expected network infrastructure description.

22. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 19, wherein said comparing further comprises collecting said current network infrastructure description.

23. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 22, wherein said collecting of said current network infrastructure description further comprises using agents to collect said current network infrastructure description.

24. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 19, wherein said comparing further comprises converting said expected network infrastructure description into an expected network infrastructure graphical description and converting said current network infrastructure description into a current network infrastructure graphical description.

25. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 24, wherein said comparing further comprises comparing said expected network infrastructure graphical description with said current network infrastructure graphical description.

26. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 19, wherein said outputting further comprises:

 outputting a list of devices from said expected network infrastructure description which are missing from said current network infrastructure description;

 outputting a list of devices from said current network infrastructure description having a different configuration from the configuration of said devices in said expected network infrastructure description; and

 outputting a list of devices from said current network infrastructure description which are not described in said expected network infrastructure description.

27. (Original) The computer-readable medium as recited in Claim 19, wherein said outputting further comprises:

 outputting a message stating that said expected network infrastructure description and said current network infrastructure description are identical.